

Application No. 09/965,263
Amtd. dated Jul. 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 9, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
MARK-UP VERSION

1. (currently amended) A linear fixture for suspension from an overhead structure, the fixture comprising:

an elongated linear housing having at least an elongated housing bottom wall, an elongated housing top wall, and an elongated slot longitudinally extending along the ~~elongated housing top wall~~;

a plurality of housing supports mounted within the ~~linear~~ housing having bottom and top surface portions respectively conforming in shape to the ~~housing~~ bottom and top walls, the bottom and top surface portions of the housing supports respectively engaging, in mating slide fit relationship, the ~~housing~~ bottom and top walls to support the ~~elongated housing~~ bottom and top walls in fixed spaced relation to each other, and the housing supports adapted for suspension from an overhead structure to support the ~~elongated linear~~ housing from the overhead structure, the housing further comprising opposing first and second end portions terminating in an outward facing peripheral edges, and wherein the housing supports comprise first and second supports each having a peripheral flange for limiting placement of the first and second supports into the housing, each of the first and second supports being respectively inserted into the first and second end portions of the housing until the peripheral flange portion abuts the peripheral edge.

2. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises an[[d]] extruded aluminum material and the housing supports each comprise a one-piece plastic material.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the peripheral flange portion of the first and second supports has a flush outwardly facing surface adapted to abut with other first and second supports carried by other linear fixtures.

5. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim [[3]] 1 ~~further wherein~~ the first and second supports include a raised bridge surface extending across the elongated slot to provide a uniform continuum surface across the end portions of the ~~elongated housing~~ top wall adjacent the opposing end portions.

6. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim [[3]] 1 wherein each of the first and

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second supports has a first socket and an electrical power plug connector seated in the first socket, the electrical power plug connector having an outward facing plug end facing outwardly of the housing for connection with a power source and the electrical power plug connector having an inwardly facing plug end from which wires extending from the support into the housing.

7. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim 6 wherein each of the first and second supports ~~has~~ have second sockets and second electrical control connectors seated in the second sockets, the second control connectors having a second plug connector facing outwardly of the housing and control signal wiring extending from the support into the ~~linear~~ housing.

8. (currently amended) A linear fixture for suspension from an overhead structure, the fixture comprising:

an elongated linear housing having at least an elongated housing bottom wall, an elongated housing top wall, and an elongated slot longitudinally extending along the top wall;

a plurality of housing supports mounted within the housing having bottom and top surface portions respectively conforming in shape to the bottom and top walls, the bottom and top surface portions of the housing supports respectively engaging, in mating slide fit relationship, the bottom and top walls to support the bottom and top walls in fixed spaced relation to each other, and the housing supports adapted for suspension from an overhead structure to support the housing from the overhead structure, ~~the linear fixture of claim 1~~ wherein the ~~elongated housing~~ bottom and top walls have a cross-sectional shape in the form of an eyelet with the ~~elongated housing~~ bottom wall and ~~elongated housing~~ top wall meeting at corners of the eyelet, and the elongated slot extending along the entire length of the ~~elongated housing~~ top wall dividing same into two spaced apart housing top wall portions.

9. (original) The linear fixture of claim 5 wherein the first and second supports include mounting sockets facing inwardly of the housing for supporting fluorescent lamps.

10. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim 9 wherein the first and second supports further comprise[[s]]:

ears that extend inwardly of the ~~linear~~ housing adjacent the bottom walls, each of the ears including an opening through which a locking screw passes, and

a bridging surface extending across the elongated slot between the ~~housing~~ top wall

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portions, and

wherein the fixture further comprises:

two elongated housing side walls extending adjacent the respective top wall portions, the two elongated housing side walls being secured relative to the top and bottom walls by the locking screws passing through the ears of the housing supports, and the side walls extending a predetermined distance beyond the top wall,

riser members mounted to the bridge surface of the each of the first and second supports and extending between the side walls adjacent the end portions of the housing, the riser members each including a second mounting socket facing inwardly of the housing, and,

additional fluorescent lamps mounted to the second mounting sockets to extend between the side wall.

11. (currently amended) A linear lighting fixture for suspension from an overhead structure, the fixture comprising:

an elongated linear housing having at least an elongated bottom wall and opposing first and second end portions;

first and second supports mounted respectively to first and second end portions of the housing, the first and second supports adapted for suspension from an overhead structure to support the ~~elongated linear~~ housing from the overhead structure, each of the first and second supports having a first connector recess extending therethrough; and,

a first electrical power plug connector seated in the first connector recess, the first plug connector having a front face having connection terminals facing outwardly of the housing for connection with a power source, and the first plug connector having rear face with electrical wiring extending from the first plug connector through the housing support and into the ~~linear~~ housing.

12. (original) The linear fixture of claim 11 wherein the shape of the first connector recess conforms to the shape of the first electrical plug connector so that the first electrical plug connector is seated in at least partially mating relationship with the first connector recess.

13. (original) The linear fixture of claim 11 wherein the first connector recess has at least one pair of opposing support walls which engage the first plug connector to seat the first plug connector in the first connector recess, the first connector recess further including a pair of

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opposing converging cantilevered walls, each extending rearwardly from a respective one of the pair of opposing support walls, to clamp against the first plug connector.

14. (original) The linear fixture of claim 13 wherein each of the cantilevered walls has an unsupported end portion having an in-turned hook member adapted to engage the first electrical plug connector and to positively locate travel of the first electrical plug connector into and through the first connector recess.

15. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim 11 wherein each of the first and second supports further comprises at least one second connector recess extending therethrough; and, a second electrical control plug connector seated in the second connector recess, the second plug connector having a front face having connection terminals facing outwardly of the housing for connection with a control source, and the second plug connector having rear face with electrical control wiring extending from the second plug connector through the housing support and into the ~~linear~~ housing.

16. (currently amended) The linear fixture of claim 14 wherein each of the first and second supports further comprises at least one second connector recess extending therethrough;

a second electrical control plug connector seated in the second connector recess, the second plug connector has a front face having connection terminals facing outwardly of the housing for connection with a control source, and the second plug connector has rear face with electrical control wiring extending from the second plug connector through the housing support and into the ~~linear~~ housing;

the second connector recess has at least one pair of second opposing support walls which engage the second plug connector to seat the second plug connector in the second connector recess, the second connector recess further includes a pair of second opposing converging cantilevered walls, each extending rearwardly from a respective one of the pair of second opposing support walls, to clamp against the second plug connector; and,

each of the second cantilevered walls has an unsupported second end portion having a second in-turned hook member adapted to engage the second electrical plug connector and to positively locate travel of the second electrical plug connector into and through the second connector recess.